be over practically by the end of 1085. The time has, in the opinion of Government, arrived when active steps should be taken to redress the balance in favour of North Travancore. So far as the Quilon division is concerned, it benefits most by the line of Railway and it is better provided with roads than Kottayam. Further, a scheme for improving the irrigation tanks of the Shencottah taluk (in the Quilon division) is under preparation, which, when carried out, would probably cost three or four lacs of rupees. The wants of the Kottayam division therefore deserve most consideration at our hands and His Highness' Government would now take up and pursue steadily the policy of opening up new communications, or bringing under efficient maintenance such of the existing communications as are not being regularly maintained, in the Kottayam division. We are anxious, in framing a programme of action, to associate with ourselves the people who are to be benefited and I would, therefore, suggest that the members from the Kottayam division should meet under the presidency of the Chief Engineer and select the works which they consider most necessary and to which they wish that preferential consideration should be given. A special allotment of a lac of rupees will be made for this purpose in the budget of 1085. The remaining portion of the current year—1084—will be required by the Public Works department for preparing the necessary plans and estimates.

38. Railway.—The amount paid by His Highness' Government during the year, for making good the guaranteed interest of the railway from Shencottah to Quilon, was Rs. 1,81,302. This railway has been open for through traffic from 1080. The following figures, in regard to the deficit interest made good out of the Sirkar revenues since then, will be interesting :—

	Rs.
1080	2,83,125.
1081	2,22,694.
1082	2,42,525.
1083	1,81,302.

Signs are not wanting to show that the traffic of the railway is slowly beginning to develop.

Anchal.

39.—There were 175 Anchal Offices, 18 of which were opened during the year. The total number of covers, both private and official, posted during the year, was 68,02,740, against 63,93,853 in 1082, showing an increase of 4,08,887 covers. Of this increase, 3,69,732 were private letters and only 39,155 official. The actual receipts from the Anchal Service amounted to Rs. 80,918, and if official covers had been charged for, the receipts would have been Rs. 3,87,664. The cost of working the department was Rs. 1,12,691. The Railway Mail Service from Quilon to Shencottah was introduced during the year under review. The value payable system continued to work satisfactorily. 15,167 V. P. articles were issued during the year. The number of Anchal Offices which did hundi business was 166, against 97 in the previous year. 1,00,414 hundies for Rs. 12,05,318 were issued in the year. The rates of postage charged on letters and newspapers and the rates of commission charged on hundies were revised and reduced during the year.

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